Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-21

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TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 130321

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: LOAN 664-H-15A,020, 020A - FRANCHI CONSTRUCTION CO. REFS: A) STATE 112538 B) TUNIS 2761 C) TUNIS 2954

1. DESPITE VERBAL ASSURANCES THAT PROPOSAL REFTEL C ACCEPTABLE, FRANCHI STILL NOT IN POSITION CONFIRM TO CHASE THAT NON-RESIDENT FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNT OPENED, ALTHOUGH FRANCHI SAYS THEY EXPECT BE ABLE TO DO SO MOMENTARILY AS REQUISITE INSTRUCTIONS WERE CABLED MAY 29. FRANCHI ATTRIBUTES DELAY IN NOT ACTING SOONER TO INABILITY ESTABLISH TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH THEIR ATTORNEY IN TUNIS.

2. AID/W HAS NO REASON BELIEVE THAT BANK ACCOUNT WILL NOT BE ESTABLISHED BUT WITH L/COMM FUNDS NOW IN PENDING STATUS FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS, TIME HAS COME TO FIX IRREVOCABLE CUT-OFF DATE FOR PAYMENT THEREUNDER. ACCORDINGLY, AID/W INFORMED FRANCHI BY PHONE ON MAY 30 ITS INTENTION TO TERMINATE AT COB JUNE 13 CHASE'S AUTHORITY TO EFFECT PAYMENT UNDER L/COMM WITH EACH PARTY HAVING ONE WEEK IN WHICH TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS. THUS FRANCHI HAS BEEN TOLD JUNE 6 UNCLASSIFIED

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IS LAST DATE BY WHICH CHASE CAN ACCEPT INSTRUCTIONS FROM FRANCHI TO TRANSFER FUNDS INTO BANK A/C. IF BANK A/C DETAILS AND TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION NOT FORTHCOMING FROM FRANCHI BY JUNE 6 LATEST, DEOBLIGATION ACTION WILL BE

INITIATED FOLLOWING DAY. SIMILARLY, IF FRANCHI MEETS JUNE 6 DUE DATE AND GOT AUTHORIZATION NOR RECEIVED BY CHASE BY JUNE 13 LATEST, CHASE'S AUTHORITY TO DISBURSE L/COMM FUNDS CEASES AND DEOBLIGATION ACTION COMMENCES. LETTER TO THAT EFFECT PRESENTLY ENROUTE TO CHASE.

- 3. RE PARA 5 REF C, AS WITH OTHER L/COMM TRANSACTIONS COVERING CONTRACT SERVICES, BASIS FOR PAYMENT IS BORROWER'S APPROVAL OF CONTRACTOR'S INVOICE WHICH VIEWED NOT ONLY AS BORROWER ATTESTING TO ACCURACY OF AMOUNT CLAIMED BY CONTRACTOR BUT THAT INVOICE COVERS ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCING UNDER LOAN. SHOULD SUBSEQUENT REVIEW BY AID PROVE OTHERWISE, REFUND CLAIM AGAINST BORROWER IS ISSUED.
- 4. SINCE GOT HAS CERTIFIED FRANCHI'S INVOICE, IT IS ASSUMED THAT PROPOSED L/COMM PAYMENT CONSISTENT WITH BOTH CONTRACT AND LOAN TERMS/CONDITIONS. AS SUCH FRANCHI FREE TO USE DOLLAR PAYMENT AS IT WISHES. THAT OPTION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO FRANCHI UNDER EARLIER PROPOSED PAYMENT PROCEDURE AND IN FACT WOULD HAVE BEEN TANTAMOUNT TO TRANSFER OF LOAN DOLLARS TO GOT IN RETURN FOR TD'S, A PAYMENT PROCEDURE UNACCEPTABLE TO AID/W AND TO WHICH COMMENT IN PARA 2 REF A "NOR WOULD AID/W APPROVED" MADE REFERENCE.
- 5. WILL KEEP USAID INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

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To: TUNIS

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